

**Andrew Jackson to Benjamin Chew Howard, February 2, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL BENJAMIN C. HOWARD.¹

¹ M. C. from Maryland 1829–1833, 1835–1839, compiler of Howard's *Reports*, son of John Eager Howard.

Private and Confidential.

Washington, February 2, 1837.

The President with his respects to Col Howard chairman of the committee on Foreign relations incloses him a letter addressed to my former Private Secretary, which from the authority given me by major A.J. Donelson before he left me, I have opened, and from its contents think it proper that the Col should see it. after he peruses it, if he think proper he may shew it to the committee, and as our minister, judge Ellis² is now here, it might be well to see and converse with him on the subject. The Col will find the idea held forth by Mr austin in his letter “that if the U.S. does *not now accept the proposition, it may be forever lost to her*”. this the P. has heard from other sources, and there is no doubt, if the Independence of Texas be not acknowledged by the u. states, an effort will be made by Texas to great Britain to have the Independence of Texas acknowledged by her, giving and securing to great Britain as a consideration, exclusive commercial benefits. The President will be happy to have a private interview with Col Howard after he peruses the within.

² Powhatan Ellis, of Mississippi, was appointed chargé d'affaires in Mexico in January, 1836, but our relations with that country became so strained that he closed the American

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legation on Dec. 28. Two years later, Feb. 15, 1839, he was again commissioned to Mexico, this time as minister.